

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A weed trimmer cover assembly for attachment to a weed trimmer, comprising:

a front cover defining a front horizontal cover region disposed above a weed trimmer cutting element and covering a forward area of a horizontal circular cutting zone defined by a rotational cutting path of the cutting element,

a front vertical flange projecting downward from the front horizontal cover region and generally along a radius corresponding to and larger than a radius defined by the cutting zone; and

a cover attachment means attached to the front cover and connecting the front cover to the weed trimmer, the cover attachment means further comprising a hinge wherein the front cover may be pivoted about the hinge and thereby raised upward along a range of positions from completely lowered downward to completely raised upward;

wherein the front horizontal cover region and the front vertical flange are configured to deflect debris being projected by the cutting element, thereby preventing projected debris from being distributed forward or upward and rearward relative to the weed trimmer.

2. (Currently amended) The weed trimmer cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the cover attachment means further comprises ~~a hinge and a~~ positional fixing linkage connected to the front cover, wherein the front cover may be pivoted about the hinge ~~connection and thereby~~ raised upward into a fixed position with the positional fixing linkage, the fixed position located along ~~a~~ the range of positions from completely lowered downward to completely raised upward; and

~~wherein the front horizontal cover region and front vertical flange deflect debris being projected by the cutting element when the front cover is in the fixed position, thereby preventing the projected debris from being distributed upward and rearward relative to the weed trimmer.~~

3. (Currently amended) The weed trimmer cover assembly of claim 21, wherein the front horizontal cover region and the front vertical flange further prevent projected debris from being distributed to at least one of a leftward direction and a rightward direction relative to the weed trimmer.

4. (Currently amended) The weed trimmer cover assembly of claim 3, further comprising:

a rear cover defining a rear horizontal cover region disposed above the weed trimmer cutting element and covering a rearward area of the horizontal circular cutting zone;

a rear vertical flange projecting downward from the rear horizontal cover region and along a radius corresponding to and larger than a radius defined by the cutting zone;

the cover attachment means further attached to the rear cover and connecting the rear cover to the weed trimmer; and

wherein the rear horizontal cover region and the rear vertical flange deflect debris being projected by the cutting element, thereby preventing the projected debris from being distributed rearward relative to the weed trimmer.

5. (Currently amended) The weed trimmer cover assembly of claim 4, wherein the front cover-horizontal cover region is semicircular with a half-circle outer edge and a linear inner edge, the front vertical flange projecting downward from the outer edge;

the rear cover-horizontal cover region is semicircular with a half-circle outer edge and a linear inner edge, the rear vertical flange projecting downward from the outer edge;

the front cover inner edge and the rear cover inner edge aligned together, the front cover horizontal cover region, the front vertical flange, the rear horizontal cover region and the rear vertical flange configured to thereby define a composite dome structure.

6. (Original) The weed trimmer cover assembly of claim 5, wherein the front flange further has an arch-shaped bottom edge, wherein the horizontal circular cutting zone defined by a rotational cutting path of the cutting element may be positioned at an acute angle to a horizontal planar work surface and the arch-shaped bottom edge may rest upon the horizontal planar work surface.

7. (Currently amended) The weed trimmer cover assembly of claim 5, wherein the front flange and the rear flange each further have a bottom edge, and the front flange bottom edge and ~~back~~ the rear flange bottom edge each further define a lip projecting inward.

8. (Original) The weed trimmer cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the cover attachment means further comprises first and second linear weed trimmer shaft engaging edges, the first and second linear weed trimmer shaft engaging edges defining a shaft engagement angle therebetween of about 120 degrees.

9. (Original) The weed trimmer cover assembly of claim 4, further comprising:  
a first cutting line trimmer that projects downward from at least one of the front and rear covers, the first line trimmer configured to trim a cutting element line rotating clockwise; and  
a second cutting line trimmer that projects downward from at least one of the front and rear covers, the second line trimmer configured to trim a cutting element line rotating counterclockwise.

10. (Original) The weed trimmer cover assembly of claim 4, wherein the front cover and rear cover both comprise resilient thermoplastic materials.

11. (Currently amended) A method for deflecting debris being distributed from a weed trimmer, comprising the following steps:

providing a weed trimmer cover attachment means on a weed trimmer, the cover attachment means further comprising a hinge;

attaching a front cover to the attachment means hinge wherein the front cover may be pivoted about the hinge and thereby raised upward along a range of positions from completely lowered downward to completely raised upward;

providing a front horizontal cover region projecting from the front cover and disposed above a weed trimmer cutting element and covering a forward area of a horizontal circular cutting zone defined by a rotational cutting path of the cutting element; and

providing a front vertical flange projecting downward from the front horizontal cover region and generally along a radius corresponding to and larger than a radius defined by the cutting zone; and

~~wherein the front horizontal cover region and the front vertical flange are configured to~~  
deflecting debris being projected by the cutting element, thereby preventing projected debris  
from being distributed forward or upward and rearward relative to the weed trimmer.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the following steps:

~~the cover attachment means further providing a hinge;~~

the cover attachment means further providing a positional fixing linkage connected to the front cover;

the front cover pivoted about the hinge ~~connection~~ and thereby raised upward into a fixed position with the positional fixing linkage, the fixed position located along ~~a the~~ range of positions from completely lowered downward to completely raised upward; ~~and~~

~~the front horizontal cover region and front vertical flange deflecting debris being projected by the cutting element, thereby preventing the projected debris from being distributed upward and rearward relative to the weed trimmer.~~

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of the front horizontal cover region and the front vertical flange deflecting projected debris and thereby preventing debris from being distributed to at least one of a leftward direction and a rightward direction relative to the weed trimmer.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~3~~13, further comprising the steps of:  
attaching a rear cover to the attachment means;

the rear cover defining a rear horizontal cover region disposed above the weed trimmer cutting element and covering a rearward area of the horizontal circular cutting zone;

projecting a rear vertical flange downward from the rear horizontal cover region and along a radius corresponding to and larger than a radius defined by the cutting zone; and

the rear horizontal cover region and the rear vertical flange deflecting debris projected by the cutting element, thereby preventing the projected debris from being distributed rearward relative to the weed trimmer.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the front ~~cover~~ horizontal cover region is semicircular with a half-circle outer edge and a linear inner edge, the front vertical flange projecting downward from the outer edge;

the rear ~~cover~~ horizontal cover region is semicircular with a half-circle outer edge and a linear inner edge, the rear vertical flange projecting downward from the outer edge;

further comprising the step of aligning the front cover inner edge and the rear cover inner edge together, the front cover horizontal cover region, the front vertical flange, the rear horizontal cover region and the rear vertical flange thereby defining a composite dome structure.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of the front flange defining an arch-shaped bottom edge, wherein the horizontal circular cutting zone defined by a rotational cutting path of the cutting element may be positioned at an acute angle to a horizontal planar work surface and the arch-shaped bottom edge may rest upon the horizontal planar work surface.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the front flange and the rear flange each further have a bottom edge, and the front flange bottom edge and the back flange bottom edge each further define a lip projecting inward.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of  
rotating the weed trimmer cutting element;  
the weed trimmer cutting element generating cooperative air currents with the composite dome structure;  
the cooperative air currents urging debris away from the cutting element.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of the cooperative air currents deflecting long vegetation from wrapping around the weed trimmer about the rotating cutting element.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the following steps:  
projecting a first cutting line trimmer downward from at least one of the front and the rear covers, the first line trimmer configured to trim a cutting element line rotating clockwise; and  
projecting a second cutting line trimmer downward from at least one of the front and the rear covers, the second line trimmer configured to trim a cutting element line rotating counterclockwise.